



10. Giving oral rehydration solution (ORS)

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Overview

- Oral rehydration solution (ORS) is the first step in treating people who are suffering from diarrhoea and dehydration.
- If a patient has no signs of dehydration or signs of mild dehydration (see Action tool [Assessment of dehydration](#)), he or she can be treated at home.

For NO signs of dehydration

- Demonstrate how to prepare and give ORS.
- The caregiver should give the amount of ORS indicated in the table below.

Age	Amount of ORS after each loose stool	ORS packets needed
Less than 24 months	50-100 ml ($\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ cup)	1 packet/day
2-9 years	100–200 ml ($\frac{1}{2}$ – 1 cup)	1 packet/day
10 years or more	As much as wanted	1 packet/day

Where there are SOME signs of dehydration

- Give the recommended amount of ORS (measure against either the patient's age or weight).
- If the patient passes watery stools or wants more ORS than shown in the table above, give more.
- If the patient does not improve or some of the signs of severe dehydration appear, refer the patient to a health facility (see Action tool [Referral to health facilities](#)).

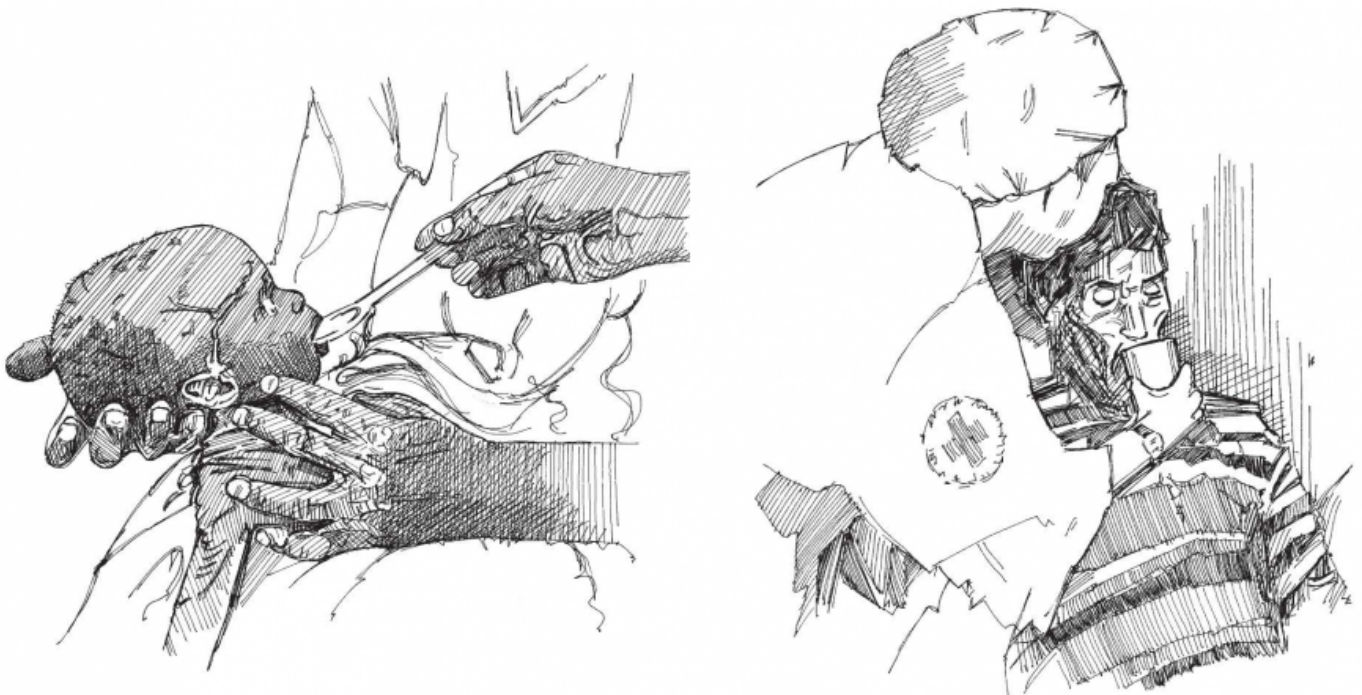
Age	Less than 4 months	4-11 months	12-23 months	2-4 years	5-14 years	15 years or older
Weight	Less than 5 kg	5-7.9 kg	8-10.9 kg	11-15.9 kg	16-22.9 kg	30 kg or more

Age	Less than 4 months	4-11 months	12-23 months	2-4 years	5-14 years	15 years or older
Oral solution in ml	200-400 (1-2 cups)	400-600 (2-3 cups)	600-800 (3-4 cups)	800-1200 (4-6 cups)	1200-2200 (6-11 cups)	2200-4000 (11-20 cups)

How to give ORS

It is important to teach mothers and caregivers to administer ORS to children correctly, to help the child get better and prevent the epidemic from spreading.

1. To a child that is under two years of age, give one teaspoonful every one to two minutes.
2. To an older child, give frequent sips from a cup.
3. If the child vomits, wait 10 minutes and then offer the solution again, more slowly.
4. If diarrhoea continues after the ORS packets are used up, give home remedies until you get more ORS packets.
5. Give the child as much clean water as he or she can drink.
6. Continue to assess dehydration and refer the child to a clinic if he or she gets worse or does not improve after a few hours.



Giving ORS to a child and to an adult

Community messages



01. Preparing and giving oral rehydration solution (ORS)